



The Latest Scams Circulating the Consumer World.



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## JURY DUTY SCAM

### The Hook

Citizens of the USA have three mandatory duties: (1) pay their taxes; (2) serve on juries when called; and (3) register for Selective Service (if eligible). Most citizens take these duties very seriously, and that is why this simple little fraud is so effective.

### The Whole Story

Your phone rings and the caller states that he or she is a jury duty coordinator and that you have not reported for jury duty as requested in a recent mailing. When you say you never received such a notice, the caller says their records indicate that you were sent a Jury Summons and that soon a warrant will be issued for your arrest. However, they will then say in order to clear things up they need just a little information: your full name, current mailing address, date of birth, and social security number to confirm that their records are correct. With the threat of a warrant outstanding, the victim will have a tendency to be very cooperative. The caller may even tell you that to end the whole matter of your failure to report you will have to pay a small fine over the phone with your credit card information.



Most people take jury duty very seriously, but enough people skip out on this civic responsibility that jury duty scams have been around for years. The simplicity is what makes this fraud so effective. "They get you scared first," says an FBI agent from the Minneapolis Field office. Then after they put you on the defensive, they reel you in with a solution to your problems: paying a small fine by credit card. With enough personal information, they can assume your identity and clean out your accounts.

### The Lesson

A good way to shut down this kind of phishing fraud is to ask for the caller's telephone number, name, and address so that you can check him out with your local FBI agent or Attorney General. If you have caller ID, compare it with what he says, assuming he does not immediately hang up. Court officials will never call and ask for personal information.

**Protect Yourself:** Never give out personal information such as your social security number, date of birth, and/or credit card information when you receive an unsolicited telephone call or email.

**Check it out:** [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2006/june/jury\\_scam060206](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2006/june/jury_scam060206) and <http://www.snopes.com/crime/fraud/juryduty.asp>